Representation on Kerosene and LPG

2240. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from All India Democratic Women's Association to reduce the price on Kerosene and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said Association demanded to enhance the supply of kerosene and LPG; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) have urged the Government not to raise the prices of kerosene and domestic LPG. AIDWA have also requested the Government to take appropriate measures to overcome the shortage of domestic LPG & kerosene, to take preventive measures to check black-marketing, taking strict action against black-marketers and hoarders, ensuring proper supply of kerosene through ration shops and setting up monitoring committees including representatives from women's organisations for efficient functioning of the distribution system.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Minister has held detailed personal meeting with the office-bearers of AIDWA to explain to them the steps being taken in this regard.

Briefly, LPG requirements are met by a combination of domestic production and imports. Though, in the recent past, there was temporary shortage of LPG in September 2005 on account of various factors including the shutdown of RIL's refinery. Government has taken number of steps to meet the requirements of domestic LPG through a combination of inventory management and imports to over-come the shortage. Also the production of LPG in RIL's refinery has

been restored from 1st December 2005 and the supply situation is getting normalized.

With a view to strengthening the kerosene distribution system so that PDS kerosene is made available to the consumers at the right price and diversion is checked, the Government have also launched the "Jan Kerosene Pariyojana" as a pilot project in 420 blocks in the country effective 2nd October, 2005. The project involves strengthening the system of transporting kerosene from OMC depots to PDS fair price shops, the distribution infrastructure at the block and sub-block levels, and the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Gram Sabhas in monitoring the distribution of PDS kerosene.

Allotment of petrol pumps in Himachal Pradesh

2241. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether petrol pumps were allotted by Public Sector Undertakings of oil sector during the period from March, 2004 to 31st December, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether oil PSU's allotted petrol pumps to individuals in State of Himachal Pradesh, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the period March, 2004 to November, 2005, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP), have allotted, 7799 retail outlet (RO) dealerships (petrol pumps) in different States/Union Territories in the country, including 151 ROs in the State of Himachal Pradesh. These OMCs plan to allot another 596 ROs in the country, including 4 ROs in the State of Himachal Pradesh, in the month of December, 2005. OMC-wise break-up of these allotments is given below. The State-wise details of these allotments are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned: